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Origin

Info:

Following background info re events Guatemala:

Guatemala disturbances August 1-3 caused by: (1) initial failure Junta energetically remove from all key Army posts officers whose loyalty to Castillo Armas doubtful because of resentment over humiliating defeat Army suffered at hands Castillo Armas irregular Liberation Army in revolution June 18-29 or other reasons; and (2) failure Junta control and discipline exuberant Liberation Army personnel who roamed Guatemala City freely displaying scorn for regulars.

Bawdy house brawl August 1 between few military cadets and Liberation irregulars used as excuse by rebellious officers commanding important Base Militar garrison in capital to overpower Liberation Army camp near city killing 20 or 30 in fighting August 2. Base Militar commander defied orders of Junta and Army Command desist, and revolt suppressed by Air Force and other Army units in capital August 3 with arrest leaders.

Colonel Monzon who is senior Army officer and third member Junta probably could have brought out all of capital's garrisons against Liberation forces and tried depose Castillo during latter's absence from City at outbreak, but instead cooperated put down revolt. Successful

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suppression rebellion evoked evidence tremendous support for Castillo Armas from populace, which obviously elated over signs he is finally taking decisive action consolidate his ~~xxxxx~~ victory of last June, and who had been growing disheartened over confusion and lack of order in Government which had prevailed through July.

Castillo Armas told Ambassador Peurifoy August 4 he had situation well in hand and would proceed energetically to remove doubtful elements from Army and public service. If carried out and implemented by effective political organization of the great numbers of citizens presently enthusiastically in his favor, Castillo Armas can quickly secure solid base for execution of what seems to be his middle-of-the-road ideas for progressive national program.

No repeat no evidence of direct Communist hand in above events.

Dulles

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